2007-2008 Survey of Florida Gambling Law

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I. INTRODUCTION

This survey discusses developments in Florida gambling law that took place during the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. It was a busy year, beginning with the publication of the first book on Florida’s gambling history and ending with the Florida Supreme Court poised to rule on the validity of the state’s gambling compact with the Seminoles.

II. ADULT ARCADES

Although Florida prohibits both slot machines and gambling parlors, in 1996 it passed the “Chuck E. Cheese Law,” which permits “games of skill” in adult arcades. But because the statute contains no standards, law en-
forcement officials often claim that such machines are being operated as illegal "games of chance." 6

In Rowe v. County of Duval, 7 the First District Court of Appeal reversed and remanded a trial court’s ruling that the Chuck E. Cheese Law was inapplicable because the appellants’ machines accepted both coins and paper bills, instead of just the former (as contemplated by the statute). 8 The majority considered this conclusion premature, however, because of the failure to determine whether the machines were games of skill. 9 If they were, the appellants then would have the opportunity to renew their argument that the Chuck E. Cheese Law should be extended in light of technological advances that have made it possible for machines to accept both coins and bills. 10 In a dissent, Judge Van Nortwick insisted that the statute’s wording was clear and that no remand was necessary. 11

III. BINGO

Bingo’s popularity in Florida has been declining for years, putting a serious crimp in the budgets of many charities. 12 Nevertheless, in Bradenton Group, Inc. v. State, 13 the game managed to produce an opinion that will serve as a cautionary tale for years to come.

Philip Furtney was the owner of three businesses that collectively made money by renting out bingo halls. 14 In 1995, prosecutors accused Furtney and his companies of violating the bingo statute and sought an order of forfeiture under Florida’s RICO statute. 15 In response, Furtney successfully

8. Rowe, 975 So. 2d at 527.
9. Id. at 529.
10. Id. at 528-29.
11. Id. at 529-30 (Van Nortwick, J., dissenting).
13. 970 So. 2d 403 (Fla. 5th Dist. Ct. App. 2007), review denied, 987 So. 2d 1210 (Fla. 2008).
14. Bradenton Group, 970 So. 2d at 405 n.1.
15. Id. at 405.
moved for an order requiring the government to post a $1.4 million bond. The dispute eventually reached the Florida Supreme Court, which in 1998 ruled that bingo offenses are not predicate RICO acts, seemingly bringing the matter to an end. In 1999, however, the government refiled the complaint, and, following numerous pre-trial motions, in 2005 a jury convicted the defendants of racketeering.

On appeal, the Fifth District Court of Appeal reversed and remanded. Finding that the Supreme Court’s 1998 decision had been ignored, the panel sharply rebuked the state’s attorneys:

> The defendants’ bingo offenses could not form the basis for RICO liability and forfeiture. *Bradentont II* [the Supreme Court’s 1998 decision] and collateral estoppel barred the action below. We are intrigued by the State’s zealously in this prosecution in light of the Florida Supreme Court’s ruling in *Bradentont II* and *Pondella Hall for Hire, Inc. v. City of St. Cloud*, 837 So. 2d 510, 510-11 (Fla. 5th DCA 2003). During oral argument, the State contended that minor changes in the amended complaint, additional parties and reliance on [the] federal [RICO] statute supported the revised prosecution. The argument is specious. The American Bar Association Standards for Criminal Justice, Prosecution Function Standard 3-1.1(b) and 3-1.1(c) (2nd ed. 1986 Supp.) states:

> (b) The prosecutor is both an administrator of justice and an advocate. The prosecutor must exercise sound discretion in the performance of his or her functions.

> (c) The duty of the prosecutor is to seek justice, not merely to convict.

> We recommend this section to the prosecutors for their edification and enlightenment.

IV. CASINOS

While Florida has no land-based casinos of its own, two cases during the year found Floridians suing over other states’ casinos. In *FLA Consult-
ing, Inc. v. Rymax Corp.," a Florida company called FLA Consulting, Inc. agreed to assist two New Jersey companies that were seeking casino business in such places as Connecticut, Nevada, and New Jersey. When the relationship soured, FLA Consulting filed suit in a Florida state court, which the defendants timely removed to federal court and then sought to have dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction.

Finding that the defendants had fair notice that they might be sued in Florida, and had not only paid FLA Consulting in Florida but had shipped merchandise into the state and attended two trade shows here, the court had little difficulty denying the defendants' motion. Although the defendants also argued that their contract with FLA Consulting required all disputes to be heard in New Jersey, the court held that the parties had operated under a later contract that lacked such a requirement.

The other casino case of the period was Certegy Transaction Services, Inc. v. Travelers Express Co. In 2004, Certegy purchased all of the stock of Game Financial Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Travelers that provided cash advances to casino customers. Although Certegy paid Travelers $43 million, the parties agreed that this amount would be reduced if, within a specified time, Game lost certain customers.

One of the designated customers was the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, which Game did end up losing. As a result, Certegy asked Travelers to adjust the purchase price by refunding $4.8 million. When Travelers refused, claiming that MGM had remained a Game customer throughout the adjustment period (which ended on November 30, 2005), Certegy took it to

21. Proposals to authorize them, of course, have appeared on the ballot three times. In 1978, a plan to allow casinos in Miami Beach failed by a vote of 71%-29%. In 1986, a plan to allow each county to decide for itself whether to have casinos failed 68%-32%. And in 1994, a plan to allow casinos at selected sites, including pari-mutuel facilities and riverboats, failed 62%-38%. See Patrick A. Pierce & Donald E. Miller, Gambling Politics: State Government and the Business of Betting 110-24 (2004), and Florida Department of State—Division of Elections, Initiatives/Amendments/Revisions, http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/initiativelist.asp (last visited July 15, 2008).

23. Id. at *1.
24. Id.
25. Id. at *2-*3.
26. Id. at *4.
28. Id. at *1.
29. Id.
30. Id. at *2.
31. Id. at *2-*3.
court. While Certegy admitted that MGM’s termination had occurred in December 2005, it pointed out that MGM had given notice of its intention to cancel on November 11, 2005. Not surprisingly, the court, finding it impossible to resolve these factual disputes without a trial, denied the parties’ cross-motions for summary judgment.

V. INTERNET GAMBLING

No internet gambling cases were reported during the survey period, although in November 2007 Attorney General Bill McCollum, responding to an inquiry from Cedar Grove Police Chief Guy J. Turcotte, reconfirmed that such betting is illegal in Florida. Local newspaper accounts, however, left little doubt regarding the popularity of web-based wagering.

VI. PARI-MUTUELS

Despite anecdotal evidence that the growing number of slot machines in South Florida is leading to an increase in gambling addictions, in January

33. Id.
34. Id. at *6-*7.
35. See 2007 FLA. ATT’Y GEN. ANN. REP. 188. Turcotte decided to seek McCollum’s advice after area businesses began selling telephone calling cards that came with free sweepstakes points which can be redeemed to play the sweepstakes games. The sweepstakes games are displayed on an interactive computer terminal, the object of which is to line up various symbols and characters in a winning combination. Each ticket contains a configuration of 3 to 25 symbols; winning combinations of which entitle the bearer to money prizes ranging in value from $1.00 to $1,000.00. Each terminal communicates with a server, which causes the terminal’s screen to display whether the participant has won any “win credits” which can be redeemed for cash or prizes.

Id. at 188-89.
36. See, e.g., Saundra Amrhein, Gambling Raid Shuts Internet Site, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, June 6, 2008, at 3 (South Shore & Brandon Times) (Sun City computer center discovered to be serving as cover for a gambling house); Andrew Ba Tran, 12 Accused of Running Betting, Loan Sharking Ring, S. FLA. SUN-SENT., May 24, 2008, at 1B (internet gambling operation headquartered in Coral Springs restaurant broken up); Todd Leskanic, Professor Avoids Jail, Will Repay Club, TAMPA TRIB., May 16, 2008, at 4 (Pasco) (former University of Tampa accounting professor ordered to repay $120,000 she stole to support her internet gambling habit); 2 Accused of Extortion Over Gambling Debts, MIAMI HERALD, Oct. 3, 2007, at B3 (Broward County men arrested for threatening gambler who lost $1.2 million placing internet sports bets).
37. See Amy Driscoll, Slot Machines Get Most Gambling Help Line Calls, MIAMI HERALD, Aug. 1, 2007, at B6, and Jon Burstein, Gambling Help Line Reveals Increase in Slot Addictions, S. FLA. SUN-SENT., Aug. 5, 2007, at 5 (Community News). On the other hand, slot machines were found to have no measurable impact on the region’s crime statistics. See
2008 voters in Miami-Dade agreed to let their county’s pari-mutuels have them, thereby reversing their March 2005 “no” vote. Yet even as proponents celebrated their victory, the performance of Broward’s “racinos” put a damper on the party. Due to the high (50%) taxes imposed on them by the Florida Legislature, the profits generated by Broward’s pari-mutuels have been far below projections, so much so that Las Vegas’s Boyd Corporation has, at least for the time being, shelved its plans to put slot machines in the Dania Jai-Alai fronton (despite paying $152 million for the property).

Although their financial difficulties are their most immediate problem, the biggest threat facing the racinos actually lies elsewhere. In Floridians for a Level Playing Field v. Floridians Against Expanded Gambling, the Florida Supreme Court, finding that it lacked jurisdiction to hear the case, kept alive a challenge to Amendment 4, which paved the way for Broward and Miami-Dade to have racinos. The dispute is now back before a Leon County circuit court judge for a decision on whether the backers of Amendment 4


In an interesting twist, the government in Waite v. Astrue, No. 1:07-cv-00045-MP-AK, 2008 WL 2477657 (N.D. Fla. June 16, 2008) argued that because the plaintiff regularly gambled (often for long stretches of time), he was not disabled and therefore not did not qualify for enhanced Social Security benefits. The court agreed and wrote:

The ALJ gave weight to Dr. Mata’s opinion that Plaintiff was capable of performing simple work, and found that Plaintiff’s gambling activities showed a strong ability to socialize, to accomplish demanding tasks, and to be familiar with elaborate game rules and strategies. Because a [residual functional capacity (RFC)] assessment is based on all of the relevant evidence in the case record, not just the medical evidence, the Court agrees with the Magistrate that the ALJ properly formulated Plaintiff’s RFC.

Id. at *1.


41. 967 So. 2d 832 (Fla. 2007).

42. Id. at 833-35.
failed to collect enough valid signatures to put the initiative on the ballot. Of course, such a finding would shut down the racinos.

Meanwhile, three lawsuits during the year shone a spotlight on the working conditions at pari-mutuels. In "Alvarez Perez v. Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club, Inc.,” the Eleventh Circuit ruled that a dog track that deliberately withheld the overtime pay of a maintenance worker was liable for liquidated damages. Similarly, in "Tafarella v. Hollywood Greyhound Track, Inc." and "Wajcman v. Hartman & Tyner, Inc.,” poker dealers at the Mardi Gras Racetrack and Gaming Center were granted permission to file “collective actions” (the employment law equivalent of class actions) after claiming they had been forced to share their tips with non-tipped employees.

The period’s two remaining decisions both involved licensing disputes. In "Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation v. Gulfstream Park Racing Ass’n,” the Florida Supreme Court found that a statute barring Gulfstream Park in Hallandale from broadcasting its races to nearby Pompano Park was a special law because, as a practical matter, it applied only to Gulfstream. And because it had been enacted using the more liberal procedures specified for general laws, the court found that it was invalid. In a concurring opinion, Chief Justice Lewis, joined by Justice

44. The racinos, however, insist they are not worried. See, e.g., Amy Driscoll, "Supreme Court to Hear Anti-Slots Case," Miami Herald, Sept. 17, 2007, at B1 (quoting Bruce Rogow, the racinos’ lawyer, as saying, “In the long run, this is much ado about very little.... The pari-mutuels will prevail in one fashion or another. We can rest assured that pari-mutuels will continue to operate.”).
45. 515 F.3d 1150 (11th Cir.), rehearing denied, 518 F.3d 1302 (11th Cir. 2008).
46. Alvarez Perez, 515 F.3d at 1168.
50. Of course, how a license is interpreted can have enormous consequences. Despite opposition from one of its leading competitors, see "Gulfstream Tries to Block Rival," S. Fla. Sun-Sent., Apr. 10, 2008, at 3B, in June 2008 Mardi Gras was given permission to “stack” its license with that of the defunct Biscayne Kennel Club to get around regulations that currently limit pari-mutuels to 12 hours of poker per day per license. See Nick Sortal, "Poker Room to Go 24 Hours," S. Fla. Sun-Sent., June 24, 2008, at 4B.
51. 967 So. 2d 802 (Fla. 2007).
53. Gulfstream, 967 So. 2d at 808-09.
54. Id. at 809-10.
Bell, chided the majority for failing to address the statute’s non-severability clause.\textsuperscript{55}

Lastly, in \textit{Florida Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering v. Florida Standardbred Breeders & Owners Ass’n,}\textsuperscript{56} the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering sought to have a lawsuit filed against it in Broward County transferred to Leon County, where it maintains its headquarters.\textsuperscript{57} The case had arisen after the Division granted a slots license to The Isle Casino & Racing at Pompano Park, despite the track’s failure to reach an agreement with its horsemen as to how to divide future slot monies.\textsuperscript{58} Finding that the Division was entitled to assert its common law “home venue privilege,” the Fourth District Court of Appeal ordered the case to be either dismissed or transferred.\textsuperscript{59}

\section*{VII. SHIPBOARD GAMBLING}

The trial of the three men accused of killing SunCruz Casinos founder Konstantinos “Gus” Boulis in Fort Lauderdale in 2001 remained pending during the year, although in June 2008 Adam Kidan, who had purchased the company from Boulis shortly before the slaying, had his 70-month federal prison sentence cut in half after he helped officials investigate the circumstances surrounding Boulis’s death.\textsuperscript{60}

Boulis’s former company and its competitors suffered greatly during the year, buffeted by competition from land-based operators and the skyrocketing price of fuel.\textsuperscript{61} Adding to their woes, in June 2008 Governor Charlie Crist signed SB 1094, dubbed the “Gambling Vessels/Clean Ocean Act.”\textsuperscript{62}
Championed by Senator Mike Haridopolos (R-Melbourne), a longtime boats foe due to his connections with the pari-mutuel industry, the law requires “day cruises” to pay for wastewater pump-out facilities at their home ports (at present, such water normally is dumped at sea after being partially treated). In addition, the ships will have to pick up the state’s oversight costs. Although the legislation’s overall financial burden is likely to be

63. While running to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Senator Howard Futch, Haridopolos was criticized for accepting thousands of dollars from the pari-mutuel industry. See Haridopolos Best in Primary, ORLANDO SENT., Mar. 7, 2003, at A18. After being elected, Haridopolos immediately introduced SB 2800, which sought to ban casino boats from Florida’s waters. See Haridopolos’ Gambling Ban a Reckless Move, FLA. TODAY, Apr. 17, 2003, at 14. When this effort failed, he tried to lift the state ban on nighttime thoroughbred racing and sought permission for a new track in Ocala. See Steven Isbitts, Bill Sheds Light on Night Racing, TAMPA TRIB., Apr. 17, 2004, at 10 (Sports).

64. Day cruises, also known as “cruises to nowhere,” are gambling excursions that normally last five or six hours and sail just far enough (three miles on Florida’s east coast, nine miles on Florida’s west coast) to reach international waters, where they are able to open their casinos. For a further discussion, see Florida Dep’t of Revenue v. New Sea Escape Cruises, Ltd., 894 So. 2d 954 (Fla. 2005).

65. See GV/COA, supra note 62, at § 4. Cruise ships that embark on multi-day voyages are expressly exempted, id. § 2(e), as are casino boats equipped with a marine waste system that “eliminates the need to pump out or dump wastewater.” Id. § 8(e).

66. Id. § 7.
small, the perilous condition of the industry makes a court challenge on federal preemption grounds a strong possibility.

In the meantime, shipboard gambling produced the year’s most dramatic opinion. In *Luyao v. State*, Dr. Asuncion Mendoza Luyao, who had been given a 50-year jail sentence for overprescribing the painkiller OxyContin, thereby causing the deaths of six of her patients, was granted a new trial by the Fourth District Court of Appeal after it found that references to her fondness for gambling on the casino ship M/V PALM BEACH PRINCESS had prejudiced the jury. According to the court, while Luyao might have be-


68. The GV/COA has been crafted to try to avoid running afoul of United States v. Locke, 529 U.S. 89 (2000), which makes it clear that states cannot regulate vessel design. By instead focusing on the ports at which casino boats tie up, and making use of their facilities optional (annual registration with the state and payment to the port being the only actual requirements), the bill’s supporters hope to come within the holding of *Askew v. American Waterways Operators, Inc.*, 411 U.S. 325 (1973), which gives states a relatively free hand when overseeing shoreside activities. For a further discussion of what is and is not permissible, see Stephen Thomas, Jr., *State Regulation of Cruise Ship Pollution: Alaska’s Commercial Passenger Vessel Compliance Program as a Model for Florida*, 13 J. TRANSNAT’L L. & POL’Y 533 (2004), and Laura K.S. Welles, Comment, *Due to Loopholes in the Clean Water Act, What Can a State Do to Combat Cruise Ship Dumping of Sewage and Gray Water?*, 9 OCEAN & COASTAL L.J. 99 (2003).

69. 982 So. 2d 1234 (Fla. 4th Dist. Ct. App. 2008) (per curiam).

70. *Id.* at 1235.
come more willing to issue prescriptions as her gambling losses mounted, the
government had not done enough to prove its theory.71

The period’s four other maritime cases all turned on highly technical
Petersburg,72 the Eleventh Circuit reinstated the arrest of the M/V CASINO
ROYALE after slot machines belonging to PDS Gaming, and originally
placed aboard the M/V OCEAN JEWEL, were transferred without PDS’s
permission to the CASINO ROYALE.73 According to the court, the trial
judge had used the wrong standard in concluding that PDS had failed to
show that it was entitled to have the arrest continued.74

In Azevedo v. Carnival Corp.,75 a slot technician aboard the M/V
CELEBRATION whose appendectomy was misdiagnosed as menstrual pains
was found not to be subject to an arbitration clause and therefore entitled to
sue in state court.76

In In re: SunCruz Casinos, LLC,77 a seaman injured in an elevator mi-
shap aboard the M/V SUNCRUZ VIII was permitted to file a late claim in
the line’s bankruptcy proceeding, the court finding that at the time of the
original deadline the seaman had mistakenly believed he was fully recovered
from the accident.78

And in Lee v. Oceans Casino Cruises, Inc.,79 which arose from a colli-
sion between two cars, one being driven by a casino boat employee and the
other by a husband and wife (the latter of whom suffered fatal injuries), the
Third District Court of Appeal held that the defendant vessel owner had

71. Id. at 1236-37. The information about Luyao’s gambling habits had been excluded
from her 2005 trial, which ended in a hung jury, but was allowed in by a different judge at her
2006 retrial. See Derek Simmonsen, Former PSL Doctor Luyao May Be Granted a New
72. No. 07-10088, 2007 WL 2988798 (11th Cir. Oct. 15, 2007) (per curiam). Through-
out its opinion the court consistently misidentified the ship by misspelling the word “jewel.”
Built in 1982 as the Russian car ferry M/V MIKHAIL SUSLOV, the vessel assumed its
present name in 2004 when it was brought to St. Petersburg. See Caryn Baird & Angie Holan,
Ocean Jewel History, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, Dec. 29, 2005, at 1D.
73. PDS, 2007 WL 2988798, at *1.
74. Id.
76. Id. at *8.
77. 377 B.R. 741 (Bkrtcy. S.D. Fla. 2007).
78. Id. at 745-48.
79. 983 So. 2d 791 (Fla. 3d Dist. Ct. App. 2008).
failed to preserve for appeal the question of whether the plaintiffs' lawyer had improperly impeached one of its experts.  

VIII. STATE LOTTERY

During the year officials in Tallahassee looked into the idea of privatizing the Florida Lottery, a step that could net the state between $17 billion and $31 billion. Any such move, however, will likely run into problems, inasmuch as the Florida Constitution prohibits private companies from conducting lotteries.

The only lottery case reported during the year was *Womack v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*, but the decision turned out to be a blockbuster. Roland Womack and Maria Spiridakos, supported by 59 other past Florida lottery winners, appealed to the Eleventh Circuit after the Tax Court held that when future lottery payouts are sold for an immediate lump sum, the money realized from the transaction is taxable as ordinary income. The players had argued that the payouts constituted a long-term capital asset, and as such qualified for the more favorable tax treatment accorded such property. In rejecting this contention, the Eleventh Circuit wrote:

> In defining "capital asset," Congress used the term "property" to mean "not income"—that is, "property" serves to distinguish assets suitable for capital gains treatment from mere income. "Property" in the most general sense means anything owned, which would also include income and any rights or claims to it. Even if other statutes use "property" in this broad sense, to exclude substitutes for income in determining what constitutes a capital asset is

80. *Id.* at 794. According to the court, any other result would "encourag[e] an attorney to sit silently during trial, await the outcome, and complain only if [there was] an unfavorable result." *Id.* at 795.


82. See FLA. CONST. art. X, § 7, which provides: "Lotteries . . . are hereby prohibited in this state." As a result, when it was decided in 1986 to have a state lottery, a constitutional amendment was needed to overcome the ban. Because the language used says, "Lotteries may be operated by the state," see FLA. CONST. art. X, § 15(a), it is unclear whether the state can lease its lottery to a private outfit.

83. 510 F.3d 1295 (11th Cir. 2007).

84. *Id.* at 1297-98.

85. *Id.* at 1302-07.
consistent with the word "property." No other interpretation of "property" would harmonize with the statute's purpose, as the very nature of the term "capital asset" excludes what is in essence ordinary income.\footnote{Id. at 1304-05.}

IX. TRIBAL GAMING

In November 2007, after 16 years of contentious negotiations, Florida and the Seminoles signed a gambling compact, thereby giving the tribe the exclusive right to offer baccarat and blackjack (and, outside Broward and Miami-Dade, the exclusive right to have Las Vegas-style slot machines).\footnote{The compact's details are reviewed at length in Robert M. Jarvis, The 2007 Seminole-Florida Gambling Compact, 12 GAMING L. REV. 13 (2008).} Even before the ink had a chance to dry, however, Marco Rubio (R-West Miami), the Speaker of the Florida House of the Representatives, filed suit in the Florida Supreme Court, alleging that the governor had overstepped his bounds and, in the process, violated the Florida Constitution's separation-of-powers clause.\footnote{See Michael C. Bender, Rubio Seeks Halt to Crist-Seminole Deal, PALM BEACH POST, Nov. 20, 2007, at 4A; Mary Ellen Klas, Rubio Asks Court to Block Seminole Deal, MIAMI HERALD, Nov. 20, 2007, at A1; Alex Leary, Rubio Fights Gaming Pact, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, Nov. 20, 2007, at 1A.}

Although oral argument took place in January 2008,\footnote{See Gary Fineout, Justices Question Validity of Crist-Seminole Pact, MIAMI HERALD, Jan. 31, 2008, at B2, and Linda Kleindienst, State High Court Asked to Decide on Compact, S. FLA. SUN-SENT., Jan. 31, 2008, at 3B.} by June 2008 no decision had been issued.\footnote{The ruling finally came on July 3, 2008, and agreed with Rubio's position. See Florida House of Representatives v. Crist, 990 So. 2d 1035 (Fla. 2008). Although this seemed to spell the end for the tribe's games, five days later a federal judge said they could continue. See PPI, Inc. v. Kempthorne, No. 4:08cv248-SPM, 2008 WL 2705431 (N.D. Fla. July 8, 2008).} As a result, the Seminoles decided to begin offering blackjack and baccarat, as well as various other table games, at their Hard Rock casino in Hollywood.\footnote{See Nick C. Sortal, It's A Big Deal: Blackjack Starts June 22, S. FLA. SUN-SENT., June 7, 2008, at 1B, and Seminole Casino Card Games Begin June 22, ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, June 7, 2008, at 6B.}

Despite a steady rain, the grand opening, starring actress Carmen Electra, drew a huge crowd,\footnote{See Amy Driscoll, Amid Glitz, Blackjack's in the Cards, MIAMI HERALD, June 23, 2008, at B1, and Charles Passy, Casino's Blackjack Debut a Big Deal, PALM BEACH POST, June 23, 2008, at 1A. Despite her fame and good looks, Electra admitted she was an odd choice to host the grand opening: "I'm not a gambler at all. I'd rather be shopping." See Madeleine Marr, Carmen Electra: She's A Big Deal, MIAMI HERALD, June 24, 2008, at A8.} and in the days that
followed South Floridians eagerly lined up for a chance to lose their money.\textsuperscript{93}

\section*{X. CONCLUSION}

While it is already being described as a gambling mecca by some,\textsuperscript{94} Florida currently poses no threat to either Atlantic City or Las Vegas. But it is certainly gaining ground fast, and the future looks bright.

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{93} See Michael Mayo, \textit{Seminoles Hold All the Cards}, S. FLA. SUN-SENT., June 24, 2008, at 1B.
  \item \textsuperscript{94} See, e.g., Daniel Chang, \textit{Feeling Lucky? With Improved Gaming and Lavish Casinos, South Florida's the New Sin City}, MIAMI HERALD, Sept. 21, 2007, at G6.
\end{itemize}